pledger's service is valued depends on his need, his credit, and his power of work. To pay a bond of £10 (Rs. 100) by labour, the monthly service of a man of fair working power would be valued at 4*s*. (Rs. 2) with or 8*s*. (Rs. 4) without food and clothing. He would thus take four years and two months with food and two years and one month without food to repay a loan of £10 (Rs. 100). The monthly service of an expert workman would be valued at 8*s*. (Rs. 4) a month with and 12*s*. (Rs. 6) without food and clothing. These husbandmen and workmen generally mortgage their labour to the landlords on whose lands they live, but they not uncommonly pledge their services to monied men of their own or of other villages. When the debtor takes his meals at the creditor's house he is expected to give his whole time to his master's work. When he takes his food at his own house he is allowed three hours in the day when he may work for any one he pleases. The moneylender has no right to the services of the bondsman's wife and children, nor does he undertake to feed him, house him, or pay any charge for him, unless an express stipulation is made in the bond. In exceptional

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for whatever time the principal remains unpaid, we are bound to pay the interest. At the end of every year the account will be made up and receipt taken from you for the amount paid and we will continue to act up to the conditions detailed above. When the whole amount is paid this document will be taken back from you duly endorsed.

Executed the 24th of May 1881.

Witnesses, Signed .....

Signed .....

(3) Bira, Dyáva, and Gurappa, sons of Hablér Bira, living in Islur in Sirsi, in favour of Subaya Hegde, son of Krishna Hegde, living in Chippige in Sirsi. We have this day borrowed from you Rs. 60 required for the marriage of one of us Dyáva. We are not in a position to pay back this amount to you, but in its place agree to the following conditions: One of us three will properly serve at your place and the sum of Rs. 18, the salary agreed, will go towards the payment of the principal amount and this service will continue till the whole amount is paid. Then this document will be taken back from you duly endorsed. If without any reasonable cause the service is denied any day contrary to the conditions of this contract, we agree to pay you in one lump sum the amount that may remain unpaid till that day, together with interest at 25 per cent which will be calculated on the amount then due. This bond will then be taken back duly endorsed. As we have promised to pay off the debt by service, the responsibility of answering you rests with all three of us, should we by acting contrary to the conditions of this agreement break our faith with you. This bond is executed with our full consent this day the 3rd of June 1881.

Witnesses, Signed .....

Signed .....

(4) Shanna bin Malla Halayar, living in Happige in the Kalguni village of Karur in Sirsi, in favour of Narnabhatta son of Shankarbhatta, also living in Hippige. On this day I have borrowed from you Rs. 100 for my marriage. I am unable to pay this amount in a lump sum as I have no other assistance. I have therefore agreed before these persons to pay off this amount by service. My monthly pay will be one rupee, and you will also give me every year a blanket, a waistcloth five yards long, and a headscarf three yards long, and for the use of my wife a robe and two bodices. Both of us will work at your place. My pay will go towards the clearing of the debt. If before the debt is cleared we keep away from your service and attend some one else, we will undergo the punishment awarded to us by the Sirkar for our failure to abide by the conditions of this contract, and after the punishment is undergone, we will labour at your place and thus clear off the debt. Also we will not conduct ourselves contrary to the conditions mentioned above. This service bond is executed with my pleasure and consent, this day the 11th of October 1881.

Witnesses, Signed .....

Signed .....

Chapter V. Capital.

Labour Mortgage.

cases where the bondsman is very needy, the creditor supplies his ordinary wants. The master has no power to transfer his right over the bondsman, except with the bondsman's consent. If the labourer refuses to serve his master during the term of his engagement, the master has no legal redress. The civil courts do not help the master in enforcing his labourer's services even in cases of written bonds. Labour is seldom pledged except by men of the lower classes, Holayars, Mhárs, Mukris, Dhivars, Parvars, Chchalvádis, Ágers, Dheds, Hulsvárs, Kengárs, Kusals, Korárs, Buttals, Bellers, and Hatgárs, who are forced to borrow to meet marriage expenses. About twenty labour bonds were brought for registration in the Sirsi and Siddápur sub-divisions in the year 1880.

Labour is pledged chiefly for household work and for work in rice fields. In spice gardens poor Havig women, in return for food and clothing, serve in the households of Havigs, doing house work and helping to water the garden. Men of the degraded castes who pledge their labour generally live in the gardens of their protectors or on the outskirts of towns or villages in small bamboo and palm-leaf huts.

Wages.

In 1800, the yearly wages of hired male servants who were generally engaged by the year were £2 8*s.* (Rs. 24), besides three meals a day and once a year a blanket and a handkerchief. The women, who were hired by the day, were paid about three pounds (1½ *shers*) of rough rice and about 1½*d.* (1 *anna*) a day in cash.[1] The money wage of both skilled and unskilled labour has risen considerably during the fifty-eight years ending 1881. From 1824 to 1859 the monthly wages of a palanquin-bearer or *hamál* were 11*s.* 3*d.* (Rs. 5⅝), and of an ordinary unskilled labourer from 6*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* (Rs. 3⅛ - Rs. 3¾). The monthly wages of a carpenter or skilled labourer varied during the same thirty-six years from 11*s.* 3*d.* to 15*s.* (Rs. 5⅝ - Rs. 7½). During the next four years (1860-1863) the monthly wages of a *hamál* or palanquin-bearer remained at 15*s.* (Rs. 7½), and of an ordinary unskilled labourer at 11*s.* 3*d.* (Rs. 5⅝); but carpenter's wages nearly doubled varying from £1 2*s.* 6*d.* to £1 10*s.* (Rs. 11¼ - Rs. 15). During the last sixteen years (1864-1880), both skilled and unskilled labourers have been paid by the day, the skilled labourer getting one shilling to two shillings and the *hamál* or palanquin-bearer 6*d.* to 9*d.* The ordinary unskilled labourer's wages have varied considerably during these sixteen years. For the first two years he was paid 6*d.* (4 *ans.*) a day, during the next seven years his wages rose to 6¾*d.* (4½ *ans.*), from 1873 to 1875 they were between 4½*d.* and 9*d.* (3 *ans.* and 6 *ans.*), during the next two years they varied from 4½*d.* to 12*d.* (3-8 *ans.*), and from 1878 to 1880 they were between 3½*d.* and 9*d.* (2⅓-6 *ans.*).

At present (1882), the ordinary day wages of unskilled workmen are, for men 4½*d.* to 9*d.* (3-6 *ans.*), for women 3*d.* to 4½*d.* (2-3 *ans.*),

[1] Buchanan's Mysor, III. 226. Kánara weights and measures differ so widely in each sub-division, even in many of the petty divisions, that English equivalents of *shers*, *mans*, and *khandis* are offered with much hesitation. At the best they are not more than approximately correct.

Wages.

and for children 1½*d.* to 3*d.* (1-2 *ans.*). Twenty years ago the rates were 3*d.* (2 *ans.*) for a man, 2¼*d.* (1½ *ans.*) for a woman, and 1½*d.* (1 *anna*) for a boy or girl. The workmen employed in the Kárwár cotton presses are paid, 7½*d.* to 6¾*d.* (5-4½ *ans.*) for a man, 4½*d.* to 3¾*d.* (3-2½ *ans.*) for a woman, 3*d.* (2 *ans.*) for a boy, and 2¼*d.* (1½ *ans.*) for a girl. The monthly wages of a mason vary from £2 8*s.* 9*d.* (Rs. 24⅜) in Kárwár to £1 10*s.* (Rs. 15) in Kumta and Sirsi; those of a carpenter from £2 8*s.* 9*d.* (Rs. 24⅜) in Kárwár to £1 17*s.* 6*d.* (Rs. 18¾) in Sirsi and £1 10*s.* (Rs. 15) in Kumta; and those of a blacksmith from £2 8*s.* 9*d.* (Rs. 24⅜) in Kárwár to £2 5*s.* (Rs. 22½) in Sirsi and £1 10*s.* (Rs. 15) in Kumta. All day-workers are sometimes and field labourers are generally paid in grain. Wages are paid daily, weekly, fortnightly, or monthly according to circumstances.

Of late years the position of day-labourers has been improved by the demand for labour in the public works and forest departments and by the spread of tillage. No special classes of day-labourers save money. Savings are generally spent in buying clothes or in making ornaments for women and children. A large number of workmen spend part of their income on liquor, Mhárs, Dheds, and Chámbhárs being excessively fond of drink. The service of women and children is specially required in the fields during four seasons in the year, for weeding and transplanting in June and July, for harvesting in October and November, for watching in November and December, and for rice-husking between January and March. At other times they are employed on the roads and other public works. In spite of the increase in the supply which has followed the restrictions on wood-ash or *kumri* tillage, the local demand for unskilled labour is in excess of the supply. It is met by outsiders from Goa, Ratnágiri, South Kánara, and Malabár.

Prices.

Yearly price details, with the exception of the rates for 1828 and for 1832, are available for the fifty-nine years ending 1882. During these fifty-nine years the rupee-price of rice of the second sort, which is the staple grain of the district, varied from fourteen pounds in 1864 to sixty-four pounds in 1842 and averaged forty pounds. The whole fifty-nine years may be divided into seven periods. In the first period of eighteen years (1824-1841), in which figures for 1828 and 1832 are not available, the prices averaged fifty pounds, the lowest being fifty-eight pounds in 1829 and 1830 and the highest forty-two in 1826. The second period of three years (1842-1844) with an average price of sixty-two pounds the rupee, was a time of very cheap grain, sixty-four pounds in 1842 being the lowest and fifty-nine pounds in 1843 the highest. The third period of twelve years (1845-1856), with an average of fifty-one pounds was one of moderate prices, the highest being forty pounds in 1856 and the lowest sixty pounds in 1851 and 1852. Prices rose high in the fourth period of seven years (1857-1863) with thirty-three pounds the lowest in 1857 and 1858 and twenty-five the highest in 1863 and an average of thirty pounds. In the fifth period of six years (1864-1869) with an average of seventeen pounds, there was a further rise with twenty-two pounds the lowest in 1868 and